

## PLAY IN A SACRED TEMPLE.

BRITISH OFFICERS RIDICULE THE CHINESE ROYAL FAMILY.

Turn the Temple of Heaven at Peking into a Theatre, and in a Baroque the "Empress Dowager" Nings Typical Songs and Dances. Is It Then Auctioned Off as a "Rare Old Bit of China"—Scandalizes the Chinese.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
From a Staff Correspondent.

PEKING, Dec. 31.—The British officers are producing a burlesque in the Temple of Heaven, which is China's Holy of Holies. The play is characterized by wholesale ridiculing of Chinese royalty. Capt. Hamilton impersonates the Empress Dowager, who is made to sing typical songs and dance. Here is a sample of Capt. Hamilton's performance. "Think of me in this frosty weather posing as Venus among the heathen; think of me in the 'allogotter' at my time of life."

At the end of the last act President Fane of the Prize Committee, who has been conducting the auction sales of British goods, declared the play a "fine old bit of rare China." He bids 50 cents for her, saying that he can use her as a lady's maid. He then appeals for bids for the Dowager for the honor of China. Capt. Parks of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, who impersonates Prince Tuan, bids \$1 for the honor of China, thereupon the auctioneer calls:

"Going, going, gone—the honor of China—sold to \$5. Prince Tuan, will you marry her?"

To this Prince Tuan replies: "Ugh, the power of China is a royal personage. She is sacred."

It is easy to understand that a play such as this will scandalize the Chinese. Once a year the Emperor of China visits the Temple of Heaven and prostrates himself.

## CHINA TO MAKE REQUESTS.

It Will Ask That the Taku Forts Be Demolished. Not Destroyed.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
From a Staff Correspondent.

PEKING, Dec. 31.—The Chinese note accepting the terms of the Powers says that Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang, on behalf of the Chinese Government, have accepted the terms of the note with the Ministers. A conference of the note was made too late to permit the calling of a meeting yesterday.

Your correspondent learns from an official Chinese source that the Chinese do not desire to object to any of the demands, but wish to object to them explained. When the Peace Commissioners meet the Ministers they will ask if dismantling the Taku forts instead of destroying them will not answer the purpose of the Powers. They will argue that the forts are not to be regarded as a term of years that will be satisfactory to the Powers. They will also ask where the Powers propose to locate the military posts between Peking and Taku, for information concerning the proposed strength of the legation guards, and the latter cannot be grouped together in the event of being scattered about Peking as at present. Furthermore, they will ask if it is not possible, now that China has agreed to the demands, that the military expeditions to the interior of the country be stopped, and whether the Powers will allow the reopening of all the civil railways in Peking.

It has been seen that these requests for explanations are reasonable. During the preliminary meetings of the Ministers the question of raising the Taku forts was discussed. Some of the Ministers, including Mr. Geng, opposed a demand of this nature, but the others insisted so energetically upon it that they carried their point. It is possible that the Ministers will now agree upon the dismantling of the forts only, but it is unlikely that they will be able to give the locations of the proposed military posts, as this is a matter that will be left for future determination. The size of the legation guards will depend upon how the Government views when civil authority is restored. It is shown that it is capable of exercising a strong hand the number of the guards will be small. If, however, the Government displays weakness the number will be large. Acquiescence in the immediate restoration of the civil government and the reopening of the official railways is likely.

Regarding the military expeditions little has been said, but the fact is that serious differences of opinion have existed between some of the allied Generals and allied Ministers from the start regarding the wisdom of such expeditions. The Ministers, almost without exception, are opposed to them, except when they are directed against robbers. This has been the case, especially since early in November, when it was practically agreed that the demands recently presented would be granted by the Powers. Your correspondent is informed that Dr. Munim von Schwartzstein, the German Minister, is particularly displeased with Field Marshal Count von Waldersee's policy, which has been to attack Chinese cities and then to find, to all possible and to possess heavy arms, to inquire whether or not they were Boxer headquarters. There has been more or less siding by the Germans everywhere. A large policy was never announced, yet it has been followed by the allied forces. The difference between the Ministers and Generals has been serious enough to say that their relations were strained. The Ministers have not hesitated at times to criticize the conduct of the military to each other and occasionally to outsiders. The Generals, on the other hand, wish to stop the expeditions and will do so if possible.

Li Hung Chang is still confined to his house by illness, but he is anxious to attend the meeting.

The condition of Gen. Gaselee, the British commander, is serious. He is suffering with pneumonia.

## EMPEROR AT FIRST ANGRY.

Thought Powers Were Trying to Exert Humiliating Terms of Peace.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
From a Staff Correspondent.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 31.—Your correspondent learns of good authority that the Emperor and Empress Dowager became very angry when the demands of the Powers, as contained in the preliminary note, were submitted to them by Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching. They thought that the Powers had taken advantage of the Chinese present condition to exact humiliating terms of peace.

After the general peace had been about a fortnight and officials that the conditions in the note will greatly increase the humiliations of the Chinese and give increased prestige to the secret societies to foment the Boxer movement. A single line of the note was read and discarded, without any possible provision for new authority.

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## PARDONED BY GOV. POWERS.

STAIN AND CROWELL, DEXTER BANK ROBBERIES, FREE.

They Were Convicted in 1898 of the Murder of Cashier Harrison Nine Years After the Crime Was Committed—Governor Not Satisfied as to Their Identification as the Criminals.

Augusta, Me., Dec. 31.—The Governor and the Council tonight unanimously pardoned David L. Stain and Oliver Crowell, who were convicted in 1888 of the murder of Cashier Harrison of the Dexter Savings Bank. The Dexter Bank robbery occurred on Washington's birthday, in 1878. The thieves got about \$40 and a bond that was not negotiable. They left behind them the cashier, J. W. Harrison, gagged, handcuffed and dying in the bank vault. He died the next day and then it was discovered that there was a slight shortage in his accounts. As the result of that discovery there was always more or less doubt about the character of the robbery.

David L. Stain and Oliver Smith, alias Crowell, were arrested nine years after the crime, charged with both the robbery of the bank and the murder of Harrison. They had been given the benefit of a confession secured by a newspaper reporter from Charles E. Stain, the son of one of the prisoners. He accused his father and Crowell of complicity in the robbery and murder. Langer and Crowell, who had been in jail since their arrest, were released on their own recognizance. The American soldiers have taken no part in these military expeditions, and they are apparently confined to the Russians and Germans.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Minister Geng has called the Department of State from Peking, saying that the Emperor of China has issued a decree accepting the peace terms of the Powers, and that Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang have asked for a further conference. The Emperor, through Prince Ching, also asked that the Powers send all military expeditions against the Chinese. This request is in direct line with the wishes of the American Government, and Minister Geng has been instructed that it is the Government's wish to stop as soon as possible the military expeditions against the Chinese.

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GERMANS SCATTER CHINESE.

Von Waldersee's Report on an Expedition to Hoken.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.  
BERLIN, Dec. 31.—A despatch from Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, dated Peking, Saturday, says: "The Chinese who fled to the south were pursued by Priest's squadron to Hoken, where they scattered to the south and southwest. Field Marshal Count von Waldersee has issued a decree accepting the peace terms of the Powers, and that Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang have asked for a further conference. The Emperor, through Prince Ching, also asked that the Powers send all military expeditions against the Chinese. This request is in direct line with the wishes of the American Government, and Minister Geng has been instructed that it is the Government's wish to stop as soon as possible the military expeditions against the Chinese."

THE PAO-TING-FU MASSACRES.

Official Report to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has received an official report of the massacre of missionaries at Pao-tung-fu from the Rev. Father Loe, who was sent to that place with the expedition of the Powers. He confirms the statement that the Rev. Frank S. Simcox and family, Dr. George Yardley Taylor and Dr. and Mrs. Courland Van R. Hodges were shot and killed. The Rev. Father Loe, who was sent to that place with the expedition of the Powers, has issued a decree accepting the peace terms of the Powers, and that Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang have asked for a further conference. The Emperor, through Prince Ching, also asked that the Powers send all military expeditions against the Chinese. This request is in direct line with the wishes of the American Government, and Minister Geng has been instructed that it is the Government's wish to stop as soon as possible the military expeditions against the Chinese."

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## STATE "STONE LAW" KNOCK-OUT.

At Any Rate, the City Must Pay for Accepted Work No Matter Where Stone Was Cut.

Comptroller Coler, who withheld from Ralph J. Treat \$2,501.63 which he had earned on a contract to sewer pipes, has allowed a writ of mandamus to issue for which the State "stone law" has been directed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to see that the money is paid. The decision, which reverses a decision of the lower court, is based on a writ of mandamus for which the State "stone law" has been directed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to see that the money is paid. The decision, which reverses a decision of the lower court, is based on a writ of mandamus for which the State "stone law" has been directed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to see that the money is paid.

The law alleged to have been violated provides that stone used on public work, except in the case of paving blocks and crushed stone, must be worked, carved and dressed within this State. The law is chapter 413 of the laws of 1885, which is incorporated in the Labor Law of 1907, chapter 415. The contract of Treat also provided that this provision of the law must be complied with in regard to the work on sewer pipes. The contract also provided that the work on sewer pipes must be worked, carved and dressed within this State. The law alleged to have been violated provides that stone used on public work, except in the case of paving blocks and crushed stone, must be worked, carved and dressed within this State. The law is chapter 413 of the laws of 1885, which is incorporated in the Labor Law of 1907, chapter 415. The contract of Treat also provided that this provision of the law must be complied with in regard to the work on sewer pipes. The contract also provided that the work on sewer pipes must be worked, carved and dressed within this State.

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## AXE FOR EX-PRESIDENTS.

BENJAMIN HARRISON SUGGESTS DECAPITATION.

"Upon Questions of Constitutional Law," He Says, "You Must Give an Ex-President His Freedom of the Axe, and It Is Too Late to Give Me the Axe." "Hail Columbia."

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 31.—The home of the Columbus Club, which comprises in its membership nearly every Republican of prominence in Indiana, was dedicated tonight with appropriate ceremonies. The structure has been recently remodelled at a cost of \$200,000 and is now one of the best equipped club houses in the country. The dedication was made the occasion for a banquet, speeches being made by former President Harrison, United States Senators Fairbanks and Beveridge, Congressman Overstreet and others. Mr. Harrison responded to the toast "Hail Columbia" and said in part: "Columbia should have been the name of the Western hemisphere, the republic half of the world—the hemisphere without a king on the ground—the reserved world, where God sent the trodden spirit of men to revive, to die, where all things were primitive, man's primitive rights."

"Royal prerogatives are plants that require a wall of ground and to be defended from the wild, free growths that crowd and climb upon them. Pomp and laced armaments are necessary to defend a particular acreage, where God sent the trodden spirit of men to revive, to die, where all things were primitive, man's primitive rights."

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